

SENATE BILL 444

By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10,  
Chapter 2, Part 1, relative to libraries and  
librarians.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-2-103, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

§10-2-103.

(a) Upon the effective date of this act, any person applying for the position of librarian in any library supported wholly or in part from public funds or in any state-supported library agency shall not be qualified and shall not be hired for such position if the applicant has not obtained a master of science degree in library science, information science, or other master of science degrees with similar educational requirements, from an institution accredited by the American Library Association. Any person employed as a librarian upon the effective date of this act shall continue to be employed as a librarian; provided that if such person applies for another position of librarian in any library supported wholly or in part from public funds or in any state-supported library agency, then the person must have obtained a master of science degree in library science, information science, or other master of science degrees with similar educational requirements, from an institution accredited by the American Library Association to be qualified and hired for such position.

(b) Upon the effective date of this act, any person appointed as a director of a public library system serving a population of two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) people or more shall have obtained a master of science degree from an institution accredited by the American Library Association and shall have at least five (5) years of experience

working in a library, including at least three (3) years supervisory experience, subsequent to obtaining such master of science degree; provided that any person currently holding the position of director may continue to hold such position in such system.

(c) In addition to the requirements of subsections (a) and (b), the state board of education may promulgate additional qualifications for persons holding the position of librarian or may promulgate qualifications for persons holding the position of professional library assistant in any library supported wholly or in part from public funds or in any state-supported library agency.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-2-104, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

§10-2-104.

The governing boards of the libraries designated in §10-2-103 shall be required to appoint to all vacant and new professional library positions falling under their respective jurisdictions only persons who prior to installation are qualified pursuant to the provisions of §10-2-103.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-2-105, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

§10-2-105.

The state board of education may provide for the certification of the following groups subject to the provisions of §10-2-103:

(1) All professional librarians and professional library assistants who are serving in libraries subject to this chapter; and

(2) Professional librarians and professional library assistants who are serving in libraries not designated above in §10-2-103, including librarians in other than publicly supported libraries.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.